5. Walkie-Talkie sets have been supplied to Drivers and Guards of all trains.

6. There has been progressive increase in use of Tie Tamping and ballast cleaning machines for track maintenance.

7. For monitoring track geometry and running characteristics of the track, sophisticated track recording cars, oscillograph cars and portable accelerometer are being progressively used.

8. For detecting rail fractures and weld failure, 96 more double rail Ultra Sonic Flaw Detectors are being procured.

9. To prevent cases of cold breakage of axles, ROH Depots have been equipped with ultrasonic testing equipment for detection of flaws in the axles.

10. Training faciliites for drivers, guards and staff connected with train operation have been modernized including use of simulators for training of drivers.

11. Intensive training of crew in operation of air brake stock and provision of detachable pressure guage for air-braked trains has been introduced.

12. Constant attention is paid to monitoring and counseling of running staff.

13. Drivers are given breathanalyzer tests to check for alcohol consumption before starting. Surprise checks are also done to identify defaulters.

14. Strick observance of rules by Drivers in automatic territory is ensured by ambush checks.

15. The training of staff has been given new thrust with better training facilities like projector, slides, study and discussions of accident cases.

Fake Rail Tickets

†1778. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL:
DR. MOHAN BABU:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a gang has been detected recently which dupes people by making fake rail tickets;

†Original Notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimate of the loss suffered by the Railways as a result thereof;

(d) the number of persons arrested in this regard; and

(e) the action taken against the arrested persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. No such gang has been detected by the railways recently, although some stray cases of persons in possession of fake railway tickets were detected in the past. However, it has come to notice through Press reports that a gang engaged in the racket of selling fake tickets has been detected by the Delhi Police in February, 2000. About 400 fake tickets have been recovered from them.

(c) Loss suffered by railways due to fake tickets is not quantifiable.

(d) and (e) As Press reports, two (non-railway) persons have been arrested by Delhi Police.

Survey work on Agartala-Akhaura Sector

1779. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the survey work on Agartala-Akhaura Sector (India Portion) has been completed;

(b) whether Government have taken up with Government of Bangladesh the linking of Agartala-Akhaura by constructing rail line; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) Field survey in 5 km. length inside Indian Territory has been completed. Survey report is yet to be completed for want of details of Engineering Survey of Bangladesh portion. So far, no report from them has been received from Bangladesh.